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22 November 1948

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

MEMORANDUM FOR: LIEUT. COLONEL EDWIN F. BLACK
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Comments on First Preliminary Report, Defense
Against Unconventional Attack

1. Confirming my previous conversations with you on this subject, this Agency is interested in the matters contained in your first preliminary report on Defense Against Unconventional Attack, dated 5 November 1948. As a preliminary step, Mr. Milton W. Buffington of my staff will communicate with you and will discuss the nature and extent of our interest in the matter. It is my thought in this connection that such a discussion, if agreeable to you, would serve to define and delimit the areas of this very broad subject which are of mutual interest, following which we might have a meeting to discuss the problem more fully and determine upon an "S.O.P." for future dealings.

2. In view of your expression of interest, we are offering for your consideration the following general comments concerning the subject matter of the report itself:

a. It is suggested that, when studying methods, effects, and counter-measures concerning various means of unconventional attack, consideration should be given to the making of a distinction between attack against organized military combat forces in the field (at home or abroad), and attack on the civilian populace in the zone of the interior. This suggestion is made even though the end effect on the individual might be the same whether he be clothed in uniform or civilian clothes, because the conditions created by widespread use of such agents against civilians and their installations will differ materially from those created by their use against organized military units.

b. The report to the Secretary of Defense entitled "Civilian Defense for National Security," published recently by the Office of Civilian Defense Planning in the Office of

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the Secretary of Defense, deals at some length with the problems posed by the various methods of unconventional attack insofar as they affect the civilian populace, and, as such, are probably civil defense operations.

c. Similar detailed study should be made of the problems peculiar only to the armed services.

d. It is suggested that enemy capabilities to exploit to the utmost any of the seven enumerated methods of unconventional attack, or all of them simultaneously, should not be minimized because of their probable entailing of extremely high costs in money, material or manpower. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] they would not have [REDACTED] effect upon an enemy whose government has total control of the will of its population, policy-making, and purse, and having an abundance of raw materials and mass labor, coupled with an ever-increasing fund of technical knowledge.

FRANK G. WISNER
Assistant Director, CIA

MWB/FGW/dr

cc: Copy No. 1 & 2 - Colonel Black
Copy No. 3 & 4 - FGW's Files
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